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New Mexico Labor Market Review

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New Mexico Department of LABOR

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The number of people unemployed in New Mexico edged up by 1,600 between February and March 1989 for an increase of 3.1 percent. However, the level of unemployment continues to show improvement over the year, with a decline of 5,800 or almost 10 percent compared to March 1988, according to estimates released by Paul Garcia, Secretary of the New Mexico Department of Labor. Unemployment has shown an increase between February and March for every year except one (1986) for the last ten years, so this year's increase can be viewed as typical. The March unemployment rate stood at 7.7 percent, up from 7.3 percent in February but down almost one percentage point from one year ago. Unemployment estimates reflect the place of residence of the unemployed and are developed with methodology provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor.

New Mexico total nonagricultural employment, based on the Current Employment Statistics Program employer survey, increased from 543,800 in February to 547,000 in March. Total nonagricultural employment is based on employer location and excludes the self-employed, unpaid family workers and private household workers as well as agricultural workers. Nonagricultural employment has increased by 12,100 or 2.3 percent over the last year.

The employment pattern for March varies somewhat between sectors. The mining sector showed a slight monthly increase of 100 jobs, all in the oil and gas subsector. Mining sector employment continues to show losses over the year, down by 1.3 percent or 200 jobs from March 1988. The entire mining sector decline took place in the oil and gas subsector. Construction employment increased by 1,000 between February and March but still showed an over-the-year fall of 600 or 2.1 percent. Manufacturing employment, at 40,400 jobs in goods manufacturing statewide, is largely unchanged from last month although showing an annual increase of 1,100 jobs or 2.8 percent. Over the year, 800 jobs were added statewide in the durable goods manufacturing sector while 300 were added in the nondurable goods sector. The transportation & public utilities sector showed a decline of 100 jobs over the month and a loss of 600 jobs over the year, mostly in the railroad and electricity, gas and sanitary subsectors. Wholesale and retail trade continued to increase, with a monthly gain of 900 new jobs and an over-the-year increase of 4,700 or 3.7 percent. The finance, insurance & real estate sector lost 100 jobs between February and March but gained 400 over the year for a slight 1.5 percent increase. Service jobs increased by 800 over the month and by 4,000 over the year for a 3.2 percent March to March increase.

	Prel.	Revised		Change From	
	Mar. 1989	Feb. 1989	Mar. 1988	Feb. 1989	Mar. 1988
Civilian Labor Force	682,100	691,400	683,100	-9,300	-1,000
Employment	629,700	640,600	624,900	-10,900	+4,800
Unemployment	52,400	50,800	58,200	+1,600	-5,800
Rate	7.7%	7.3%	8.5%		

ESTIMATED NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT (JOBS)
(Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

NEW MEXICO	PRELIM MAR 1989	REVISED FEB 1989	REVISED MAR 1988	MAR CHANGE FROM FEB 1989	MAR CHANGE FROM MAR 1988
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 1/	547,000	543,800	534,900	3,200	12,100
MINING	15,100	15,000	15,300	100	-200
Metal Mining	2,000	2,000	2,000	0	0
Bituminous Coal, Quarrying etc	4,000	4,000	4,000	0	0
Oil & Gas Extraction	9,100	9,000	9,300	100	-200
CONSTRUCTION	28,500	27,500	29,100	1,000	-600
MANUFACTURING	40,400	40,300	39,300	100	1,100
DURABLE GOODS	27,200	27,400	26,700	100	800
Lumber & Wood Products	2,400	2,400	2,400	0	0
Machinery(except electric)	2,700	2,700	2,600	0	100
Elec & Electronic Equip	5,800	5,700	5,300	100	500
Transportation Equipment	5,400	5,400	5,100	0	300
Other Durable Goods	11,200	11,200	11,300	0	-100
NONDURABLE GOODS	12,900	12,900	12,600	0	300
Food & Kindred Products	3,700	3,700	3,600	0	100
Textile & Apparel	2,700	2,700	2,600	0	100
Other Nondurable Goods	6,500	6,500	6,400	0	100
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	28,500	28,600	29,100	-100	-600
TRANSPORTATION	13,500	13,500	13,400	0	100
Railroad Transportation	1,900	1,900	2,100	0	-200
Trucking & Warehousing	6,700	6,700	6,400	0	300
Other Transportation	4,900	4,900	4,900	0	0
COMMUNICATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	15,000	15,100	15,700	-100	-700
Communication	6,500	6,600	6,600	-100	-100
Elec, Gas, & Sanitary Services	8,500	8,500	9,100	0	-600
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	130,800	129,900	126,100	900	4,700
WHOLESALE TRADE	23,100	23,100	22,900	0	200
Durable Goods	13,400	13,300	13,200	100	200
Nondurable Goods	9,700	9,800	9,700	-100	0
RETAIL TRADE	107,700	106,800	103,200	900	4,500
Bldg Material & Mobile Homes	4,200	4,100	4,200	100	0
General Merchandise Stores	12,000	12,000	11,700	0	300
Food Stores	14,800	14,700	14,300	100	500
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	13,800	13,600	13,500	200	300
Apparel & Accessories	5,300	5,300	5,400	0	-100
Furniture & Furnishing	4,400	4,400	4,300	0	100
Eating & Drinking Places	41,100	40,500	38,300	600	2,800
Miscellaneous Retail	12,100	12,200	11,500	-100	600
FINANCE, INSURANCE, & REAL ESTATE	27,100	27,200	26,700	-100	400
Banking	7,900	7,900	8,100	0	-200
Insurance Carriers	4,200	4,200	4,000	0	200
Insur Agents, Brokers & Service	3,000	3,000	2,900	0	100
Real Estate	6,200	6,200	5,900	0	300
Other Fin, Ins & Real Estate	5,800	5,900	5,800	-100	0
SERVICES	130,500	129,700	126,500	800	4,000
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	10,900	10,800	10,800	100	100
Personal Services	6,500	6,500	6,200	0	300
Business Services	32,100	32,100	31,200	0	900
Health Services	32,000	31,800	31,500	200	500
Legal Services	4,500	4,500	4,400	0	100
Educational Services	6,000	6,000	5,500	0	500
Social Services	8,000	7,800	7,700	200	300
Membership Organizations	5,800	5,800	6,200	0	-400
Other Services	24,700	24,400	23,000	300	1,700
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	146,100	145,600	142,800	500	3,300
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	30,300	30,300	29,700	0	600
STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT	115,800	115,300	113,100	500	2,700
State Government 2/	51,600	51,100	50,700	500	900
Universities	24,000	23,700	23,600	300	400
Local Government	64,200	64,200	62,400	0	1,800
Schools	40,100	39,900	38,800	200	1,300

1/ Estimates include all full-time and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period which included the 12th day of the month. Self-employed, family workers, household workers and members of the Armed Forces are excluded.

2/ Includes employees of Los Alamos National Laboratory.

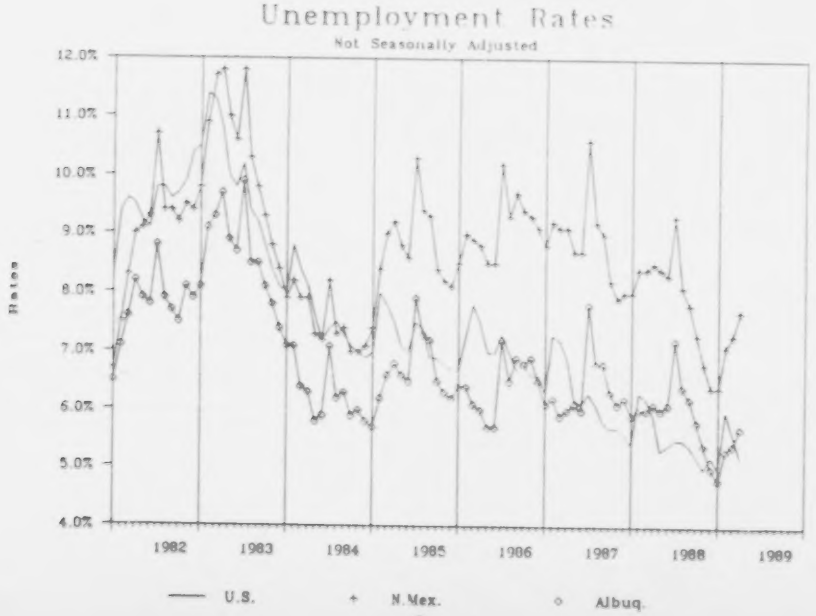
ALBUQUERQUE AREA (BERNALILLO COUNTY)

The number of people unemployed in Albuquerque in March was 14,800, up slightly from the February level of 14,400. The increase of 400 is fairly typical for this time of year. Although Albuquerque's unemployment rate rose from 5.4 percent to 5.7 percent between February and March 1989, the rate continues to be lower than in the same period last year. Also, as of this March Albuquerque's jobless rate was two full percentage points less than the state rate.

Albuquerque nonagricultural employment, as estimated by the Current Employment Statistics Program employer survey, rose from 236,600 in February to 238,200 in March for an increase of 1,600 or 0.7 percent. By comparison, the increase from February to March of 1988 was 2,200 or 0.9 percent. The manufacturing and transportation & public utilities sectors remained unchanged from February to March of this year. The construction sector increased by 300 jobs or 2.1 percent, the normal February to March pattern. Finance, insurance & real estate employment fell by 100 jobs or 0.7 percent from February to March. The services sector increased 400 jobs over the month, with increases in hotels and lodging places, business services, health services, and "other" services. Within the trade sector, wholesale trade showed no change but retail trade was up by 500 jobs or 1.1 percent, a fairly healthy one month increase.

Over the last twelve months Albuquerque employment increased by 4,700 for a 2.0 percent increase. The modest overall increase masks disparities in performance among the various sectors. Contract construction, manufacturing, and transportation, communication & public utilities remained unchanged from March 1988 to March 1989, while trade, services and government showed increases in the 2-3 percent range. Within the transportation & public utilities sector, transportation employment showed an increase of 300 jobs while the communications and utilities subsectors showed offsetting decreases. Wholesale trade showed no change on an annual basis while retail trade, up by 4.5 percent annually, showed increases in general merchandise, food stores and eating and drinking places.

	Prel.	Revised		Change From	
	Mar. 1989	Feb. 1989	Mar. 1988	Feb. 1989	Mar. 1988
Civilian Labor Force	261,000	265,100	262,300	-4,100	-1,300
Employment	246,200	250,700	246,400	-4,500	- 200
Unemployment	14,800	14,400	15,900	+ 400	-1,100
Rate	5.7%	5.4%	6.1%		



ESTIMATED NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT (JOBS)
(Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

ALBUQUERQUE MSA (BERNALILLO COUNTY)	PRELIM MAR 1989	REVISED FEB 1989	REVISED MAR 1988	MAR CHANGE FROM FEB 1989	MAR CHANGE FROM MAR 1988
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 1/	238,200	236,600	233,500	1,600	4,700
MINING	200	100	200	100	0
CONSTRUCTION	14,300	14,000	14,300	300	0
MANUFACTURING	20,400	20,400	20,400	0	0
Durable Goods	14,800	14,800	14,800	0	0
Nondurable Goods	5,600	5,600	5,600	0	0
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	12,600	12,600	12,600	0	0
Transportation	6,800	6,800	6,500	0	300
Communication	3,600	3,600	3,700	0	-100
Elec, Gas, & Sanitary Services	2,200	2,200	2,400	0	-200
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	60,700	60,200	58,700	500	2,000
WHOLESALE TRADE	14,200	14,200	14,200	0	0
Durable Goods	9,400	9,400	9,400	0	0
Nondurable Goods	4,800	4,800	4,800	0	0
RETAIL TRADE	46,500	46,000	44,500	500	2,000
General Merchandise Stores	4,800	4,800	4,600	0	200
Food Stores	5,300	5,300	5,000	0	300
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	5,000	4,900	4,900	100	100
Eating & Drinking Places	18,500	18,200	17,300	300	1,200
Other Retail Trade	12,900	12,800	12,700	100	200
FINANCE, INSURANCE, & REAL ESTATE	14,900	15,000	14,800	-100	100
Banking	3,300	3,300	3,400	0	-100
Ins Carriers, Agents & Brokers	4,600	4,600	4,500	0	100
Other Fin, Ins & Real Estate	7,000	7,100	6,900	-100	100
SERVICES	66,700	66,300	65,300	400	1,400
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	3,600	3,500	3,600	100	0
Personal Services	3,300	3,300	3,200	0	100
Business Services	22,000	21,900	21,600	100	400
Health Services	15,000	14,900	15,100	100	-100
Social Services	3,300	3,300	3,200	0	100
Membership Organizations	2,000	2,000	1,900	0	100
Other Services	17,500	17,400	16,700	100	800
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	48,400	48,000	47,200	400	1,200
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	13,600	13,500	13,500	100	100
STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT	34,800	34,500	33,700	300	1,100
State Government	13,300	13,100	12,900	200	400
Local Government	21,500	21,400	20,800	100	700

1/ Estimates include all full-time and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period which included the 12th day of the month. Self-employed, family workers, household workers and members of the Armed Forces are excluded.

ESTIMATED NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT (JOBS)
(Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

LAS CRUCES MSA (DONA ANA COUNTY) 1/	PRELIM MAR 1989	REVISED FEB 1989	REVISED MAR 1988	MAR CHANGE FROM FEB 1989	MAR CHANGE FROM MAR 1988
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 2/	41,850	41,400	40,550	450	1,300
MINING	50	50	50	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	2,200	2,200	2,100	0	100
MANUFACTURING	3,600	3,600	3,650	0	-50
Durable Goods	1,600	1,600	1,650	0	-50
Nondurable Goods	2,000	2,000	2,000	0	0
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	1,350	1,350	1,450	0	-100
Transportation	500	500	600	0	-100
Comm, Elec, Gas & Sanitary Svs	850	850	850	0	0
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	8,900	8,850	8,400	50	500
WHOLESALE TRADE	950	950	850	0	100
RETAIL TRADE	7,950	7,900	7,550	50	400
General Merchandise Stores	850	850	850	0	0
Food Stores	1,150	1,150	1,050	0	100
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	1,050	1,000	950	50	100
Eating & Drinking Places	3,100	3,100	3,000	0	100
Other Retail Trade	1,800	1,800	1,700	0	100
FINANCE, INSURANCE, & REAL ESTATE	1,750	1,700	1,650	50	100
SERVICES	6,700	6,650	6,350	50	350
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	650	650	700	0	-50
Business Services	1,350	1,350	1,200	0	150
Health Services	1,800	1,750	1,800	50	0
Social Services	300	300	250	0	50
Other Services	2,600	2,600	2,400	0	200
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	17,300	17,000	16,900	300	400
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	4,300	4,200	4,200	100	100
STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT	13,000	12,800	12,700	200	300
State Government	7,200	7,100	7,100	100	100
Local Government	5,800	5,700	5,600	100	200

SANTA FE MSA (SANTA FE & LOS ALAMOS COUNTIES) 1/	PRELIM MAR 1989	REVISED FEB 1989	REVISED MAR 1988	MAR CHANGE FROM FEB 1989	MAR CHANGE FROM MAR 1988
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 2/	54,850	54,650	53,900	200	950
MINING	50	50	50	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	2,200	2,200	2,300	0	-100
MANUFACTURING	1,650	1,650	1,600	0	50
Durable Goods	1,050	1,050	1,000	0	50
Nondurable Goods	600	600	600	0	0
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	1,100	1,100	1,200	0	-100
Transportation	450	450	450	0	0
Comm, Elec, Gas & Sanitary Svs	650	650	750	0	-100
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	10,800	10,650	10,300	150	500
WHOLESALE TRADE	900	850	800	50	100
RETAIL TRADE	9,900	9,800	9,500	100	400
General Merchandise Stores	900	900	950	0	-50
Food Stores	1,250	1,250	1,200	0	50
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	850	850	850	0	0
Eating & Drinking Places	4,400	4,300	4,000	100	400
Other Retail Trade	2,500	2,500	2,500	0	0
FINANCE, INSURANCE, & REAL ESTATE	1,950	1,900	1,950	50	0
SERVICES	14,450	14,550	14,400	-100	50
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	1,800	1,800	1,800	0	0
Business Services	3,100	3,300	3,200	-200	-100
Health Services	3,500	3,500	3,400	0	100
Social Services	750	750	700	0	50
Other Services	5,300	5,200	5,300	100	0
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	22,650	22,550	22,100	100	550
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	1,550	1,550	1,500	0	50
STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT	21,100	21,000	20,600	100	500
State Government 3/	16,800	16,800	16,400	0	400
Local Government	4,300	4,200	4,200	100	100

1/ In accordance with the CES Manual, those published cells with less than 2,000 employees are rounded to nearest 50. Those published cells with more than 2,000 employees are rounded to 100.
2/ Estimates include all full-time and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period which included the 12th day of the month. Self-employed, family workers, household workers and members of the Armed Forces are excluded.
3/ Includes employees of Los Alamos National Laboratory.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS

Hours and Earnings of Production, Construction and Nonsupervisory Employees
(Prepared in cooperation with the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS			AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS		
NEW MEXICO	MAR 1989	FEB 1989	MAR 1988	MAR 1989	FEB 1989	MAR 1988	MAR 1989	FEB 1989	MAR 1988
MINING	$520.02	$521.00	$501.95	42.8	42.6	43.8	12.15	12.23	11.46
CONSTRUCTION	$437.76	$409.21	$416.81	38.4	36.7	38.1	11.40	11.15	10.94
MANUFACTURING	$352.67	$346.33	$359.68	41.2	39.4	41.2	8.56	8.79	8.73
Durable Goods	$370.44	$362.50	$375.48	42.0	40.1	42.0	8.82	9.04	8.94
Nondurable Goods	$287.41	$304.88	$317.88	36.8	37.5	39.1	7.81	8.13	8.13
COMMUNICATION & UTILITIES	$574.46	$589.89	$547.82	40.2	41.6	40.7	14.29	14.18	13.46
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	$199.66	$204.41	$207.34	31.1	30.6	30.9	6.42	6.68	6.71
Wholesale Trade	$322.58	$334.93	$329.82	39.1	38.9	34.5	8.25	8.61	9.56
Retail Trade	$182.90	$178.02	$183.01	29.5	28.9	30.2	6.20	6.16	6.06
BANKING	$246.18	$248.57	$220.07	37.3	37.1	37.3	6.60	6.70	5.90
ALBUQUERQUE MSA	MAR 1989	FEB 1989	MAR 1988	MAR 1989	FEB 1989	MAR 1988	MAR 1989	FEB 1989	MAR 1988
MANUFACTURING	$375.77	$374.07	$378.22	40.8	39.5	40.8	9.21	9.47	9.27
Durable Goods	$401.32	$396.73	$400.32	42.2	40.4	41.7	9.51	9.82	9.60
Nondurable Goods	$297.84	$303.78	$306.23	36.5	36.6	37.9	8.16	8.30	8.08

NOTE: Estimates include all full-time and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period which included the 12th day of the month. Self-employed, family workers, household workers and members of the Armed Forces are excluded. The average earnings are "gross" reflecting not only changes in basic hourly and incentive wage rates but also such factors as premium pay for overtime and shift differentials. The work week information relates to the average hours for which pay was received, and is different from standard or scheduled hours due to absenteeism, labor turnover, part time work, overtime work etc.

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U.S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Historical data for the CPI series are available from the U.S. Department of Labor by writing to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 525 Griffin St., Rm. 221, Dallas, TX 75202, or by calling (214) 767-6970.

	Mar. 1989	Feb.1989	Mar. 1988	Percent Change Feb.'89-Mar.'89	Mar.'88-Mar.'89
CPI-U	122.3	121.6	116.5	+0.6%	+5.0%
CPI-W	120.8	120.2	115.1	+0.5%	+5.0%

Index Base Year 1982-84 = 100

CPI-U - All Urban Consumers
CPI-W - Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Area Economic Activity

Statewide: Governor Garrey Carruthers signed House Bill 500 appropriating $5 million to the state armory board for eight projects, including construction of a central armory. Also included is funding for armory construction projects in Santa Fe, Grants, Tucumcari, Belen, Clovis, Farmington and Las Vegas. Three New Mexico savings and loan institutions were taken over by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. (FDIC) in March. American Federal Savings and Loan Association in Albuquerque, Sun Country Savings Bank of New Mexico in Albuquerque and Valley Federal Savings Bank in Roswell were among 45 savings and loan institutions nationwide placed under the management of the FDIC. During the week ending April 1st, rotary drilling in the Permian Basin totaled 101 operating rigs. A count taken during the comparable week in 1988 showed the Permian basin with 140 rigs. Lea County had 20 working rigs and Eddy County reported 9 operating rigs.

Albuquerque Area: The Air Force Special Weapons Laboratory is building what will be the world's fifth largest telescope in the Manzano mountains. Olympus Corp. held its groundbreaking ceremonies in March for a Rio Rancho plant that will begin operating in October. The plant will employ close to 125 people when fully operational. At full capacity, the plant may employ as many as 300 workers. Olympus Corp., which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Olympus Optical Co. Ltd. in Tokyo, has 24 U.S. branch operations that employ more than 1,200 people--the Rio Rancho location will be the 25th in the U.S. Ross Aviation Inc. of Albuquerque recently signed a contract to provide air transportation services to the Department of Energy's (DOE) in Albuquerque. The new contract will run for seven years with an estimated value of $175 million for the seven-year-contract period. Ross, which has 175 employees, has operated air transportation facilities for the DOE since 1970. The University of New Mexico Hospital broke ground in April for a new outpatient unit. The five-story, 200,000-square-foot building, to be built on Lomas N.E. on the site of the hospital's front parking lot, will permit the hospital to combine all outpatient services. Southwest Distributing Co. has laid off four managers and 10 employees as part of a restructuring plan. The Rio Rancho Safeway store permanently closed in early April. All but 17 of the 47 employees now working at the Safeway store at Southern Boulevard and 20th Street will be able to transfer to the nearby Rio Rancho Food Emporium.

Alamogordo Area: Holloman Air Force Base (HAFB) recently released an economic impact report for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1989 reporting a HAFB payroll of more than $208.3 million. The New Mexico Department of Labor Alamogordo Labor Service Center has begun construction of an addition and remodeling its office space. A new company, Apache Future Inc., recently contracted with the Mescalero Apache Tribe to move into the old Eight Canyon Job Corp Center space. Apache Future Inc. will be primarily involved in manufacturing electrical wire harness and other electronic components for a national market. It is estimated that within the next 60 days the first 50 employees will be on board and within 120 days there should be 100 employees. When in full operation by late 1990, 300 employees are expected. Hamilton Construction Company of Silver City has been awarded a $2 million Highway Department reconstruction contract to improve 5.5 miles of Highway 380 in Capitan.

Clovis Area: The Santa Fe Railway announced that it has laid off 31 mechanical department employees in Clovis. The cutback was attributed to reduced rail traffic. Taco Bell closed in late April, affecting six to seven workers. McCrory's TG&Y will be closing in early May idling approximately 15 employees. The store will reopen as Bargain Time and may hire 30 to 35 employees. Clovis voters approved a .25 percent gross-receipts tax increase for a new library. First National Bank of Clovis opened a new addition to the bank for a consumer loan and escrow facility.

Espanola Area: A new women's clothing store, The Fashion Source, opened for business in the Mesa Shopping Center.

Farmington Area: One of San Juan County's largest employers, U.S. Enertek Inc., temporarily laid off 21 employees in mid-March. Enertek manufactures gas processing equipment. The layoff reduces Enertek's

workforce in Farmington to about 145 from 165. General Dynamics is nearing completion work on a $3 million missile component assembly plant south of Farmington. The company says the plant will employ 60 to 70 people by year end. By the end of 1991, the plant is expected to employ about 200 workers. By July, the plant will begin manufacturing components for hand-held Stinger antiaircraft missiles.

Grants Area: Corrections Corp. of America (CCA) has hired the first 20 correction officers to operate the New Mexico Women's Correctional Facility. The prison is scheduled to open in early June. Approximately 65 positions remain to be filled.

Las Cruces Area: A Chicago-based pecan shelling company has bought one of Stahmann Farms' processing plants. S.N.A. Nut Co. plans to continue pecan processing at the Las Cruces facility. The processing plant was one of two closed last month. Mountain Pass Canning Company in Anthony, Texas laid off about 250 workers earlier this year. Onion transplanting, onion weeding and lettuce thinning are the primary crop activities in the Las Cruces area this month. SYE International Inc., an El Paso development firm, took bids for contracts to level land for a $10 million traveler's complex. Flying J. Inc., based in Utah, will construct and operate the facility. The project is located at the southeast corner of Interstate Highway 10 and Farm Road 1905 on 138 acres, and the project is expected to be completed by September.

Los Alamos Area: Security guards at the Los Alamos National Laboratory are striking against Mason and Hanger-Silas Mason, the security contractor for the lab. About 250 rank and file security inspectors walked off the job in mid-March protesting unfair labor practices.

Los Lunas Area: A new Tastee Freez will be opening soon in Los Lunas at the Valencia Y Shopping Center with 15 to 25 employees. Estimated completion time for the new facility is about 70 days.

Raton Area: The National Rifle Association signed a contract with low bidder Gerald Martin Ltd. of Albuquerque for construction of a new Whittington Center Administration Building. The administration building will replace the two trailers currently placed at the gate of the Whittington Center. P&M Coal Mining Co. has recalled 17 more workers bringing the total union labor force to about 85 workers. La Mesa Park is continuing to prepare for its May 13th opening date.

Roswell Area: The U.S. Department of Commerce has awarded Roswell a $580,000 economic development grant for a major renovation project at the Roswell Industrial Air Center. Swenson's Ice Cream Factory will reopen at the Roswell Mall under new ownership. Two manufacturing plants, Christmas by Krebs and Levi Strauss & Co., are currently reporting production activity at or near capacity. Levi Strauss & Co. has about 640 employees. Christmas by Krebs presently has about 80 employees and plans to open a 300,000 square foot warehouse.

Santa Fe Area: ABQ Bank will close one of its Santa Fe offices and lay off five employees on April 15 as part of a company-wide cutback. The ABQ Bank and Shop branch located in the Safeway supermarket on St. Michael's Drive will close. Lovelace Medical Center of Albuquerque held a grand opening of its new outpatient treatment center, St. Michael's Multi-Specialty Clinic, in March. The new clinic will employ 32 people when fully staffed including four family practice physicians, an internist, two pediatricians and two specialists in obstetrics-gynecology. The DeVargas Medical Center, which employs about 20 people, will remain in operation. Santa Fe's Super 8 Motel plans to add 36 rooms and overhaul its building on Cerrillos Road. Work should begin in early April and take about three months. The contractor is Brook Development Co. of Tempe, Arizona but all subcontractors and laborers will be hired locally.

Taos Area: All ski areas in Taos County have closed for the season. Approximately 740 seasonal workers were laid off. Opening date for the new Holiday Inn is May 1st. Forty-five to 57 employees are to be hired.

NEW MEXICO LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES 1/

	PRELIMINARY MARCH 1989				REVISED FEBRUARY 1989				REVISED MARCH 1988			
	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate
STATEWIDE	682,154	629,743	52,411	7.7%	691,365	640,580	50,785	7.3%	683,034	624,880	58,154	8.5%
ALBUQUERQUE MSA 2/	260,934	246,161	14,773	5.7%	265,104	250,714	14,390	5.4%	262,260	246,393	15,867	6.1%
LAS CRUCES MSA 3/	55,618	51,400	4,218	7.6%	55,624	51,698	3,926	7.1%	55,065	50,820	4,245	7.7%
SANTA FE MSA 4/	64,273	60,938	3,335	5.2%	65,192	62,065	3,127	4.8%	65,276	61,559	3,717	5.7%
Catron	1,111	906	205	18.5%	1,187	978	209	17.6%	1,150	872	278	24.2%
Chaves	23,841	22,426	1,415	5.9%	24,035	22,671	1,364	5.7%	23,246	21,661	1,585	6.8%
Cibola	9,312	8,237	1,075	11.5%	9,482	8,426	1,056	11.1%	9,326	8,099	1,227	13.2%
Colfax	6,459	5,358	1,101	17.0%	6,438	5,409	1,029	16.0%	6,427	5,539	888	13.8%
Curry	16,181	15,063	1,118	6.9%	16,564	15,416	1,148	6.9%	16,738	14,909	1,829	10.9%
De Baca	930	815	115	12.4%	948	846	102	10.8%	904	794	110	12.2%
Eddy	20,389	18,569	1,820	8.9%	20,565	18,785	1,780	8.7%	19,839	17,839	2,000	10.1%
Grant	10,250	9,217	1,033	10.1%	10,508	9,489	1,019	9.7%	10,414	9,441	973	9.3%
Guadalupe	1,722	1,445	277	16.1%	1,741	1,444	297	17.1%	1,657	1,340	317	19.1%
Harding	420	350	70	16.7%	434	363	71	16.4%	431	340	91	21.1%
Hidalgo	2,595	2,422	173	6.7%	2,684	2,521	163	6.1%	2,507	2,353	154	6.1%
Lea	22,904	21,157	1,747	7.6%	23,250	21,497	1,753	7.5%	22,434	20,623	1,811	8.1%
Lincoln	6,526	6,097	429	6.6%	6,503	6,036	467	7.2%	6,228	5,653	575	9.2%
Luna	6,133	5,280	853	13.9%	6,187	5,382	805	13.0%	6,082	5,202	880	14.5%
McKinley	17,711	15,893	1,818	10.3%	18,126	16,147	1,979	10.9%	17,599	15,404	2,195	12.5%
Mora	1,220	787	433	35.5%	1,241	821	420	33.8%	1,353	884	469	34.7%
Otero	18,959	17,393	1,566	8.3%	19,185	17,639	1,546	8.1%	18,728	17,039	1,689	9.0%
Quay	4,762	4,427	335	7.0%	4,775	4,484	291	6.1%	4,697	4,226	471	10.0%
Rio Arriba	13,783	11,114	2,669	19.4%	13,680	11,237	2,443	17.9%	14,238	11,322	2,916	20.5%
Roosevelt	7,331	6,962	369	5.0%	7,534	7,168	366	4.9%	7,499	6,946	553	7.4%
Sandoval	27,071	24,989	2,082	7.7%	27,310	25,392	1,918	7.0%	26,369	24,371	1,998	7.6%
San Juan	32,224	28,537	3,687	11.4%	32,704	29,194	3,510	10.7%	32,985	28,398	4,587	13.9%
San Miguel	9,692	8,615	1,077	11.1%	9,855	8,728	1,127	11.4%	9,845	8,463	1,382	14.0%
Sierra	2,624	2,468	156	5.9%	2,611	2,477	134	5.1%	2,440	2,263	177	7.3%
Socorro	5,851	5,377	474	8.1%	6,019	5,521	498	8.3%	6,139	5,521	618	10.1%
Taos	10,044	8,060	1,984	19.8%	10,223	8,326	1,897	18.6%	10,398	7,947	2,451	23.6%
Torrance	3,513	3,131	382	10.9%	3,560	3,198	362	10.2%	3,467	3,038	429	12.4%
Union	2,066	1,895	171	8.3%	2,117	1,954	163	7.7%	1,929	1,775	154	8.0%
Valencia	15,705	14,254	1,451	9.2%	15,979	14,554	1,425	8.9%	15,364	13,846	1,518	9.9%

1/ All estimates are made in strict accordance with methodology provided by the U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

2/ Metropolitan Statistical Area - Bernalillo County

3/ Metropolitan Statistical Area - Doña Ana County

4/ Metropolitan Statistical Area - Santa Fe and Los Alamos Counties

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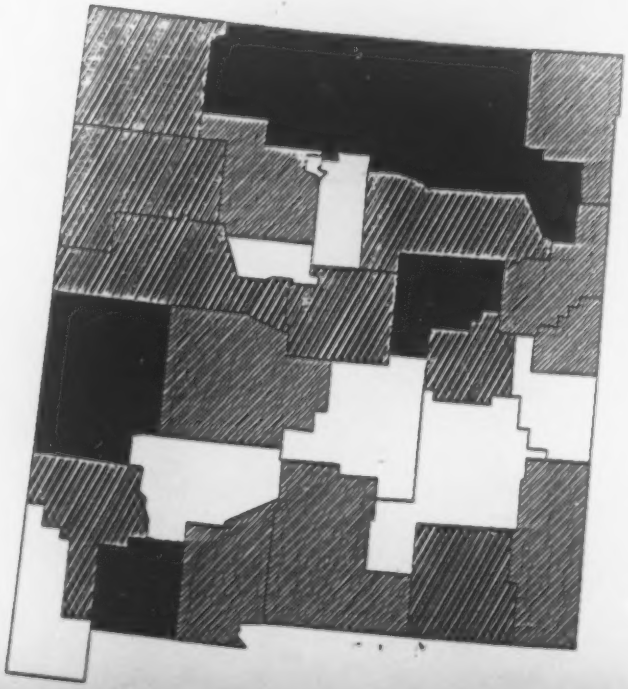
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY MAIL
LAB 440

FIRST CLASS MAIL

New Mexico
Unemployment Rates
March 1989



Legend

- 5 to 6.9
- 6.9 to 8.9
- 8.9 to 13.9
- 13.9 to 36.5